

# **McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms**

## **Fifth Edition**

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**On the cover:** Photomicrograph of crystals of vitamin B<sub>1</sub>.  
(Dennis Kunkel, University of Hawaii)

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## INTERNATIONAL EDITION

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to flow into the sluices; when the reservoir is empty, the operation is repeated. { 'flāp, gāt }

**flimmer** [TELE] A defect in television reception in which the picture moves vertically up or down the screen, caused by asynchronization between the vertical and horizontal frequencies. { 'flāp, ōvər }

**flim-disk** [COMPUT SCI] A flexible plastic disk coated with a magnetic material and used for data entry to a computer; a slot in the disk envelope or housing, which remains stationary while the disk rotates, exposes the track positions for the magnetic head of the drive unit. Also known as diskette. { 'flāp, dīsk }

**flim** [COMPUT SCI] A unit of computer speed, equal to one million arithmetic operation per second. { 'flāps }

**flim** [MATH] A second-order linear differential equation whose coefficients are periodic single-valued functions of the independent variable  $x$ , has a solution of the form  $e^{i\omega x} P(x)$  where  $P(x)$  is a periodic function. { 'flō'kā }

**flim** [PLANTS] 2. The plant life characterizing a specific region or environment. { 'flōr-ə }

**flim** [BOT] A flower stalk. { 'flōr-əl 'ak-səs }

**flim** [BOT] A diagram of a flower in cross section showing the number and arrangement of floral parts. { 'flōr-əl 'dī-ā-gram }

**flim** [CHEM] oil. { 'flār-əns, ōil }

**flim** [CHEM]  $\text{CeAl}_3(\text{PO}_4)_2(\text{OH})_6$  Pale-yellow mineral phosphate of cerium and aluminum.

**flim** [CHEM] thorium-147. { 'flō'ren-čəm }

**flim** [CHEM] A form of a chemical compound made by the reaction of fluorine and cerium. { 'flōr-ēz }

**flim** [CHEM] chloride. { 'flōr-ēz 'mār-d-əs }

**flim** [BOT] An individual flower that is part of a compact inflorescence, such as the head of a composite plant or a cyme.

**flim** [MED] A unit for the standardization of penicillin.

**flim** [ZOO] A type of branched hexaster spicule.

**flim** [AGRIC] A segment of horticulture concerned with the production, marketing, and retail sale of cut flowers and potted plants, as well as home gardening and flower arrangement.

**flim** [OCEANO] A fast current that sets through the Florida Current at a point north of Grand Bahama Island, and carries the Gulf Stream to form the Gulf Stream.

**flim** [BOT] A class of red algae, division Rhodophyta, which form pit connections between cells.

**flim** [BOT] Blooming freely, used principally of ornamental plants.

**flim** [BOT] A plant hormone that stimulates buds to grow.

**flim** [BOT] Feeding on flowers. { 'flō'riv-ə-rəs }

**flim** [WINE] A technique used to make Spanish port wine by the participation of a film-forming yeast on the surface of the wine in partially filled oak barrels.

**flim** [WINE] The wine in partially filled oak barrels; characterized by a characteristic sherry flavor. { 'flōr, prās' }

**flim** [BOT] Plants which grow in a small, confined habitat, such as a rock crevice. { 'flōr-ə-lə }

**flim** [BOT] A flowerlike structure around the mouth of a mollusk. { 'flōr-ə-lə }

**flim** [ZOO] A suborder of rotifers in the order Platystridina. { 'flās-kyə-lar }

**flim** [ZOO] A family of sessile rotifers in the order Platystridina. { 'flās-kyə-lə-rī-ə-dē }

**flim** [ZOO] Composed of florets. 2. Of a floret, such as a feather. { 'flās-kyə-ləs }

**flim** [ZOO] A family of sessile rotifers in the order Platystridina. { 'flās-kyə-ləs }

**flim** [ZOO] A process of spinning or flowing metal over a substrate, such as a cylindrical, conical, and curvilinear surface.

**flim** [ZOO] A solid slag floating on the surface of a liquid.

**floss hole** [MET] A small door or opening of the bottom of a smokestack or flue for removal of ash. { 'flās, hōl }

**flotation** [ENG] A process used to separate particulate solids by causing one group of particles to float; utilizes differences in surface chemical properties of the particles, some of which are entirely wetted by water, others are not; the process is primarily applied to treatment of minerals but can be applied to chemical and biological materials; in mining engineering it is referred to as froth flotation. { 'flō-tā-shən }

**flotation agent** [CHEM] A chemical which alters the surface tension of water or which makes it froth easily. { 'flō-tā-shən, ā-jent }

**flotation analysis** [PHYS] Technique to measure liquid density in which a float of known density is adjusted with weights to match that of the liquid. { 'flō-tā-shən, ə-nal-ə-səs }

**flotation cell** [MIN ENG] The device in which froth flotation of ores is performed. { 'PETRO ENG } A large tank for separating oil from contaminated water by rapidly bubbling gas through the water to scavenge the oil droplets. { 'flō-tā-shən, sel }

**flotation collar** [ENG] A buoyant bag carried by a spacecraft and designed so that it inflates and surrounds part of the outer surface if the spacecraft lands in the sea. { 'flō-tā-shən, kāl-ər }

**flotsam** [ENG] Floating articles, particularly those that are thrown overboard to lighten a vessel in distress. { 'flāts-əm }

**flounder** [VERT ZOO] Any of a number of flatfishes in the families Pleuronectidae and Bothidae of the order Pleuronectiformes. { 'flaū-dər }

**flour** [FOOD ENG] A powdery meal obtained by milling wheat and other cereal grains or dry food products such as potato or banana. { 'flaū-ər }

**flour gold** [MET] The finest-size gold dust, much of which will float on water. { 'flaū-ər, gōld }

**flour mill** [FOOD ENG] A machine or factory that processes cereal grains such as wheat and rye into flour. { 'flaū-ər, mil }

**flow** [COMPUT SCI] The sequence in which events take place or operations are carried out. [ENG] A forward movement in a continuous stream or sequence of fluids or discrete objects or materials, as in a continuous chemical process or solids-conveying or production-line operations. [FL MECH] The forward continuous movement of a fluid, such as gases, vapors, or liquids, through closed or open channels or conduits. [GEOL] Any rock deformation that is not instantly recoverable without permanent loss of cohesion. Also known as flowage; rock flowage. [PHYS] The movement of electric charges, gases, liquids, or other materials or quantities. { 'flō }

**flowability** [FL MECH] Capability of a liquid or loose particulate solid to move by flow. { 'flō-ə-bil-ə-tē }

**flowage** [GEOL] See flow. [HYD] Flooding of water onto adjacent land. { 'flō-ij }

**flowage line** [GEOL] A contour line at the edge of a body of water, such as a reservoir, representing a given water level. { 'flō-ij, līn }

**flow analysis** [IND ENG] A detailed study of all aspects of the progressive travel by personnel or material from place to place during a particular operation or from one operation to another. { 'flō ə-nal-ə-səs }

**flow banding** [GEOL] An igneous rock structure resulting from flowing of magmas or lavas and characterized by alternation of mineralogically unlike layers. { 'flō, bān-dīŋ }

**flow bean** [PETRO ENG] A plug containing a small hole placed in the flow line at the well head which serves to maintain oil flow at a proper rate. { 'flō, bēn }

**flow birefringence** [PHYS CHEM] Orientation of long, thin asymmetric molecules in the direction of flow of a solution forced to flow through a capillary tube. { 'flō, bīr-ə-frīŋ-jəns }

**flow bog** [ECOL] A peat bog with a surface level that fluctuates in accordance with rain and tides. { 'flō, bāg }

**flow brazing** [MET] A brazing process in which coalescence is produced by the heat of molten filler metal that is poured over a joint. { 'flō, brāz-īŋ }

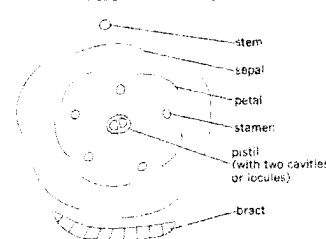
**flow breccia** [GEOL] A breccia formed with the movement of lava flow while the flow is still in motion. { 'flō, brēč-ə }

**flow brightening** [MET] In a soldering process, the melting of a chemical or mechanical metallic coating on the base metal to be soldered. { 'flō, brīt-ən-īŋ }

**flow brush** [ENG] A hollow tool for the continuous application of a broad coat of an adhesive. { 'flō, brāsh }

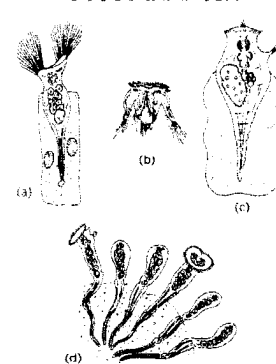
**flow cast** [PETR] One of a group of bedding plane structures formed in graywacke. { 'flō, kast }

## FLORAL DIAGRAM



Graphic diagram of a cross section of a flower.

## FLOSCULARIACEA



Sessile rotifers of the Flosculariaceae. (a) *Floscularia mutabilis*. (b) *Pedalia mira*. (c) *Conchiloides* species. (d) *Lacinularia socialis*.